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thinkers in politics and economics. He himself stood steadily for Liberalism and democracy—sometimes of a more advanced type than was acceptable to Cobden, Mill, or Bright. In spite of occasional differences of opinion, however, he enjoyed the respect and esteem of many of the best known authors and statesmen of the mid-nineteenth century. For many years he carried on a correspondence with Harriet Martineau, and Miss Martineau's letters to Fox were among the few that escaped destruction at the autocratic command of their writer. Given his choice in 1857 between preserving the letters he already had, and continuing to hear from her, Fox chose to keep his letters. True to her word, Miss Martineau wrote to him no more, but the letters in existence extend over the years from 1828 to 1857, and, while Dr. Garnett has respected Miss Martineau's desire that none of her letters should be published, he gives many side-lights on her character from the letters which serve to modify the somewhat unfavorable impression that Miss Martineau managed to give of herself in her autobiography.

Like John Stuart Mill, Fox was a strong supporter of the rights of women, and the adherents of the women's movements of modern times could find in his life some useful arguments in favor of their cause. Whether the question was religious equality, the enfranchisement of the working classes, women's rights, poor law reform, or popular education, Fox was always to be found on the democratic side. He was, however, essentially a preacher and an orator, and eloquence and oratory are transient and evanescent. Hence to the present generation, Fox is scarcely more than a name—a name that perhaps Dr. Garnett's biography may save from utter oblivion.

A History of Canada 1763-1812. By C. P. LUCAS. With two Appendices and 8 Maps. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1909. Pp. 320.)

This is a book by Sir Chas. Lucas, the present head of the Dominion's Department of the British colonial office, already widely known as the author of several volumes on the *Historical Geography of the British Colonies*, *The Canadian War of 1812*, etc. The present volume deals with the period between the establishment of civil government in Canada under British rule and the outbreak of the war with the United States. All students of Canadian history are aware how much is to be done before we can have an adequate treatment of the period between the

conquest and the rebellion of 1837. Much has been done indeed in the form of monographs and special biographical studies, but a large part of the literature dealing with the middle period of Canadian history is vitiated by the partisan attitude of the writers and has moreover been written from inadequate information and without proper access to first hand material. Sir Chas. Lucas' book is written strictly from the impartial standpoint of the scientific historian, is based throughout upon official and authoritative documents and constitutes one of the most important contributions to Canadian history of recent years. The book no doubt in accord with the authors intention, is devoted primarily to political and military, rather than to social history but contains an excellent chapter (pp. 208-235) on the settlement of the loyalists. The second chapter offers a discussion of the causes of the American War of Independence intended to correct rather distorted view of the rights and wrongs of the great colonial controversy which has hitherto been freely adopted by British historians. The specially prepared maps which accompany the volume add greatly to the interest of its perusal.

STEPHEN LEACOCK.

Retrospections of an Active Life. By JOHN BIGELOW. (New York: The Baker & Taylor Company. 1909. Three volumes. Pp. xiv., 645; 607; 684 including Index. Illustrated.)

These three bulky volumes, covering fifty years of the long and useful career of an American patriot who helped to save the Union and to negotiate the withdrawal of France from Mexico, are so full of historical sidelights, so interesting in their disclosures of prominent men whose letters appear and in revealing the character and development of the optimistic author himself, that the reader after he has finished them wishes for more. Intermingled with the letters which constitute the larger part of the volume are brief but keen explanatory comments of the author furnishing glimpses of his later philosophic views on the events of his earlier years.

About half of the first volume covers the life of the author before the civil war: the simple life of pleasant boyhood days which he contrasts with the marvellously changed life of his maturity and old age; the student life in academy and college (1830-35) and in a law office; a brief experience as teacher of belles-lettres and history in a girl's school (1838); his period of law practice (1838-48) during which he reviewed